SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEWS

NO. 60 FALL 1991

PRESIDENT'S SPACE *by Joe Mahoney*

[Two items communicated by neighbors who asked to go nameless (President's reliable sources!):]

'Seems we've been rabble-rousers for a long time. Neighbors have been interested in the **Sunnyside Playground** and a bit of its history might be in order. The May 2, 1962 News Call Bulletin records that a hundred of us showed up at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee to ask for a replacement for the playground we had lost to government quonset huts (during World War II) at Ocean and Phelan. We got an agreement to purchase the present-day playground site at a cost of $100,000. We even made it happen, eventually! Although the purchase had been approved, by 1964 it was still only on paper. Then, before it had a chance, it was deleted from the budget. So in April 1964, moms and tiny tots did a sit-in a City Hall. With a little extra boost from the publicity that got, it was restored to the budget and actually purchased and planted. So it's all ours, folks, if we can keep it safe...

In Thomas Malims' 1988 article in the Independent featuring the opening of the Conservatory, he reminds us of how the neighborhood came about. In 1891, Behrens Joost, owner of Sunnyside Land and Development Corp., laid out our streets and lots, hoping to attract weekend and summer people out from San Francisco to enjoy our restful countryside. Sunnyside Avenue was to be the **main thoroughfare**. He purchased the railroad along what is now San Jose Avenue [and Diamond Street] to make it easy for prospective buyers to get here. The powerhouse was located at Baden and Circular. Once he sold the lots, he sold the railway. The new owner moved the main line and maintained only a single track extension service along San Jose. When Westwood Park and St. Francis Wood were developed in the Twenties, Sunnyside Avenue became Monterey Boulevard.

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I use these items to introduce some present-day problems: planning, congestion, transportation and parking in the Sunnyside. At press time, the SNA is collecting signatures of residents, shoppers, and merchants who want something done about the tour bus problem and parking scofflaws. Problems once concentrated around the Monterey and Genessee corner, have now touched residents up to four blocks away. It is a complex issue! As I see it, it is an enforcement problem — our City does not stand behind existing NO PARKING zones and DOUBLE PARKING law. Ordinances, such as those speaking to approved routes of bus operators and commercial vehicle parking, are ignored. Even planning and zoning codes are overlooked—what ever happened to parking requirements? Notice of building permits? New uses at old sites? Folks who challenge the daring violators get a rude gesture, perhaps more, for their effort!

The Sunnyside community MUST get active, get vocal. San Francisco resources are thin: the squeaky wheel gets the oil! So, start flooding The City with calls — Department of Parking & Traffic (Days), Police (Nights), Mayor's Office of Citizen Complaints, Zoning Administrator, your Supervisors. Write letters. Sign petitions!

(continued on page 2)

SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 27615 San Francisco, California 94127

August, 1991

Dear Neighbor:

Following months of discussion and research, your neighborhood association is taking action to restrict the movement and parking of commercial tour buses on our residential streets. We find that existing ordinances are not getting enough enforcement. Proper permits appear lacking. One restaurant, China Wok, is bringing unwanted bus traffic and parking problems to the Sunnyside. The owner has declined an invitation to meet and confer on the issue. Area residents are unable to use their driveways or drive around thoughtlessly parked buses on our streets. Our neighborhood-serving businesses are inconvenienced.

We find we must show support of a significant number of residents, businessmen, and shoppers to get help from The City. We seek new restrictions to keep large tour buses from operating on side streets (area bounded by Circular, Judson, Phelan, Ridgewood, Mangels, and Baden) and to provide a proper passenger loading area on Monterey Blvd. (between Foerster and Gennessee). Additional meetings are planned with Traffic Engineering, other City departments, and the Supervisors' Economic and Social Policy Committee. We will hold another, special meeting in the Sunnyside in September to address this issue, our signature drive, and request to The City.

Please clip and return the form below so that we may count you among supporters of restricted commercial tour bus movement and parking. (If you disagree, please let us know as well!) We need your comment and signature before September 15, please. This is a direct action, neighborhood improvement project.

Thank you,

Joe Mahoney

Joe Mahoney, President
messages: 584-6510

Clip and Mail to: SNA - Tour Buses, PO Box 27615, San Francisco, CA 94127

==========

I am a Sunnyside resident, businessman, or shopper. I support the restriction of commercial tour bus movement and parking in our residential areas. I expect the City and County of San Francisco to enforce rigorously all existing codes that apply. I support the passage of appropriate new ordinances and posting of signs that restrict the movement of buses and designate special parking and passenger loading areas for buses where these are needed.

Date _____ Name (PRINT) _____

Address _____ Signature _____

PRESIDENT'S SPACE (continued from page 1)

Demand action...look in this News for my telephone guide. And, help us with our collective efforts!

The **Ban the Buses** drive asks Traffic Engineering, Police, Fire, Muni, and Supervisors to severely restrict the commercial tours. We like our neighborhood serving businesses, but they must respect the needs of each other and the surrounding residents! You see, everyone wants to come to the Sunnyside: Mr. Joost was a man of vision!

Speaking of petitions, the new **Balboa Reservoir** campaign resulted in 300,000 signatures collected and now being verified. The petition asks the Supervisors to rescind approval of the zoning change and project—or face a ballot decision by San Francisco voters. The war-chest to save the corner of Phelan/Ocean from the planned residential use is short on money. If you can help with dollars, please send checks to the special fund: San Franciscans for Reasonable Reform, 225 Edna Street, San Francisco 94112.

We have other problems. City Planning is looking to change building codes (**Residential Conservation Controls**) again, such as height-limitations, rear set-backs, restrict demolitions and remodels, etc. SNA is moving slowly with support for some proposed restrictions as many of our homes are small, older and in need of renovation. However, it is a long-standing policy in the Sunnyside that architecture and heights must fit the existing character of the neighborhood. We are fearful of more condo developments and an inner-Mission look. We want to protect open space and rear gardens. We need off-street parking. Important in any event is vigilance: watch for notice of permit applications and consider the long term effect on your neighborhood. Do not assume that The City notified the SNA. The period to voice concerns is a short one; appeals are tough and costly. Call a SNA board member with your concern or to get help. Perhaps a conference with the property owner or builder can be arranged.

We need you at our meetings; your energy and viewpoint keep us running. Bring solutions as well as problems! Many of you have been successful and others will benefit from your experience and suggestions. With the school year started, we hope to see you at Sunnyside School, first Tuesdays of each month. A political candidates' forum is planned for October.

SAN FRANCISCO CIVIC ACTION PHONE LIST 5/91

Abandoned cars	553-0123
Animal Control	554-6364
Animal Disposal	334-0111
Building Inspection	558-6088
City Planning/zoning info	558-4541
Community Boards-neighbor disputes	239-6100
Condo conversion	554-5827
Consumer Action	777-9635
Curb planting	558-6430
Curbside recycling	330-2872
Electrical inspection	558-6030
Garbage complaints	558-5461
Health Department - info	558-2896
Library - Excelsior	337-4735
Library - Glen Park	337-4740
Mayor Art Agnos	554-6141
Muni Bus route/schedule infor	673-6864
Muni complaints/commendations	923-6164
Neighborhood watch	673-7233
Noise, construction	558-6096
Noise, nuisance (police)	553-1012
Noise, other	558-4731
Parking lots/garages (city)	558-4675
Parking meter out of order	821-5592
Parking permit residential	554-4466
Parking, illegal (days)	553-0123
Parking, illegal (night)	553-0123
Plumbing inspection	558-6054
Police, blocked drive, nights	553-0123
Police, fraud unit	553-1521
Police, hate crimes	553-1133
Police, Ingleside Station (days)	553.1603
Police, narcotics hot line	553-1600
Police, other non-emergency	553-0123
Police, security surveys	553-9582
Public Works, Landscaping	558-4757
Rape treatment	821-3222
Recreation & Parks maintenance	666-7201
Recycling	554-6193 330-2872
Registrar of Voters	554-4375
Rodent control	558-3436
Senior Action Network	863-2033
SF School Board	241-6000
Sheriff	554-7225
Signs (city) missing/damaged	558-2096
Spills (street area)	861-8020
Street / Sewer repair	695-2100 695-2020
Street lighting out of order	554-0730
Street/sidewalk inspection	554-5837
Suicide prevention	221-1423
Supervisor Angela Alioto	554-7788
Supervisor Bill Maher	554-5401
Supervisor Carole Migden	554-4033
Supervisor Doris Ward	554-5867
Supervisor Harry Britt	554-5145

(continued page 3)

Supervisor Jim Gonzalez	554-5338
Supervisor Kevin Shelley	554-4005
Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg	554-5556
Supervisor Terrance Hallinan	554-7766
Supervisor Tom Hsieh	554-5051
Supervisor Willie Kennedy	554-5734
Supervisors, general info	554-5184
Towed cars	553-1235
Traffic signals out	821-5591
	861-8000
Tree planting	695-2113
	543-5000
Water emergency	558-4109
	558-4101

OFFICERS FOR SUNNYSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION - 1991

President – Joe Mahoney 584-6510
Vice President – Ann Cook 584-8856
Corresponding Secretary – Margaret Ann McGuire (AFTER 10:00 a.m., Please) 333-4386
Treasurer – Ellen Wall 587-0836
Member at Large – Jane Radcliffe 586-4577
Past President – Rick Spear 587-8134

You may call any member of the Executive Board if you have a problem or concern with which they may help.

Newsletter Editor – Margaret Ann McGuire 333-4386

Views expressed in the NEWS are those of the authors, unless indicated that they are official opinions of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association.

Contributions to the newsletter are welcomed. Query first and be sure to observe the deadline. For the next issue, it will be November 8, 1991.

If you want to join The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association or it is dues time for you again, please use the order below –

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The Sunnyside Neighborhood Association is a non-profit tax-exampt organization.

NOTES FROM JANE BRYMNER, SNA SECRETARY

Our neighbors from The Glen Park Association and The Diamond Heights Association are setting up a TASK FORCE TO SAVE GLEN CANYON PARK. The first meeting was held June 11, 1991 at Christopher Park Recreation Center.

Dawn Marayama of The Glen Park Association asked if we could put a notice in our paper that the task force has been set up.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES FROM THE SUNNYSIDE

Our association holds meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. The meetings are informative and cover a wide area of interest for our neighbors.

Some of the subjects covered in our April meeting were —
Neighborhood Watch
Police Report
Tree Planting
Tour Bus Parking
Our program was on Pets and Pals and animal control.

The subject of our May meeting was "A Forum On Phelan Loop and Senior Housing." The meeting was informative, lively and well attended by Sunnyside and neighboring associations. Press gave good coverage.

We continued the discussion of The Phelan Housing Issue at our June meeting and now our association can contribute toward the best solution. Other topics which were discussed - Traffic and Parking Patterns in Our Neighborhood Illegal Tour Bus Parking.

Due to foot surgery, Jane Brymner was not sure she would be able to attend the August meeting. The following paragraph is an insert by M.A.McG.

The August meeting furthered the discussion of traffic and parking problems. Some members read letters which they will forward to city officials. Joe Mahoney, president of SNA, has a petition which you may choose to sign. Contact him at 584-6510.

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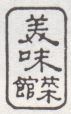

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CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Margaret Ann,

About 3 weeks or so ago, when I sat down to read *The Sunnyside News,* I was utterly amazed to read about some of the history of our house. What a joy!! What a treasure house of information you behold! I am still so delighted every time I re-read it. A "thousand thanks" for sharing your information! I just can't tell you how much I enjoy *The Sunnyside News!* It really gives one a sense of community-unity.

The Con-Artists Article is happening in our area! Thanks to *The Sunnyside News,* many of us are now alerted. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Connie Bramer

Dear Connie,

Your enthusiasm is a delight - a stimulus. Do come to a meeting. I genuinely would be "glad to meet you".

"Cons" continue - August 21, 1991 -

A man barged through my gate when I was working in the garden. Very smiley. I told him to stop, he kept on coming. I straightened up, clutched my sheers, snapped, "What do you want?" "I just want to buy some of your flowers for my grandmother." "Grandmothers" are popular with con men approaching the elderly. They think we'll identify, be sympathetic.

"I won't sell you any flowers, but I'll give you some." He stood there. Authoritatively, "You go do some errands and come back in 20 minutes. It will take time to cut them." I strode toward him. He left, was driven away in a car with the "pattern of three". After he left, I reproached myself for my suspicions, cut him a mass of flowers, left them by the gate. He never returned - here.

Did I imagine menace? Am I paranoid? Read on -
This same young Hispanic (we compared descriptions; everything was identical) went to Julia Melne's. She was having repairs done on her house, workmen had departed, she was tidying by and in her garage. Our Hispanic "friend" came up to her, said, "I've bought the house up the street. It needs a lot of work like this too." Establishing a bond is a common approach. After a bit of chatting, he asked for a drink of water - "to take a pill; I've been sick." Julia went into the garage to get water, he followed closely. Shortly after, he rode off in the same car I'd seen with the "pattern of three".

When Julia went upstairs, all her money and jewelry were gone. While the first man was distracting, keeping her occupied, his accomplice slithered in, robbed the house.

The jewelry was an heirloom collection. Julia is shattered. She knows she has to suppress her natural neighborliness, her inborn trust in her fellow man. This destroys the very core of Julia.

If this trio is caught, the police will have to be very careful not to "violate their rights"; the trio either will get acquitted, have a suspended sentence or be jailed for only a short time. Then they will return to this same "occupation". Training - counselling - won't change them. These jobs are easier, more profitable than legitimate employment. When and if caught, penalties are minor.

In the short view, you need to be alert -

★ When a stranger asks an apparently innocent question - directions, change for a dollar, does Mr. Soandso live here, may he/she have a drink of water, use the telephone, the bathroom, etcetera. He may be evaluating the situation. Is there a door open, unlocked? Are you alone? Is anyone here who might cause trouble? If you do get suspicious and help appears, what complaint can you make? His questions are innocent. Yet if you look vulnerable, you may become a victim - and of more than you expect.

★ When a car has a "three pattern" - driver, approach man in front, look-out, back-up man in rear. The car may stop or park a bit out of your normal line of vision. The approach man is the only one you notice, the other two remain in the car.

★ Remember cons are supernaturally FAST. The professional magician can't make a bird vanish as quickly as the con man can disappear into your house.

★ Remember, too, they have a saying, "I can steal the socks off your feet while you're still wearing shoes."

The long view —
Our violent crime rate is one of - if not the - highest in the world
Our jail conditions are among the best. Doesn't that say something?

We appropriate more money for our criminals than we do for our poor and elderly. It galls me to think that if these criminals are caught, the government will use my tax money to spend more on each of them than I have to spend on myself.

Isn't it time legislation was changed? Shouldn't we be more supportive of our police? When police pursue criminals, they literally risk their lives and with their lives is the safety of decent people. There is no way of knowing in advance whether or not the criminals are armed and whether or not they will attack. There is every reason to consider them dangerous. They are outside the law and they are FAST. Yet with an arrest, the police officer is put on the defensive. Disastrous.

Thank you for writing, Connie. Please do it again. M.A.McG.

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LEGENDS OF SUNNYSIDE

by Margaret Ann McGuire

The Haunted House - Vacant, abandoned for years, boys dared each other to sneak in at midnight. The table still was set in the dining room, with chairs shoved back, napkins dropped. The story was that in the midst of a dinner party, a terrible tragedy occurred and everyone fled. Afterward, ghostly presences were seen. Victims of the tragedy - unspecified - came back from the dead to wander restlessly and reproachfully where there had been a hideous murder. Not a very distinctive story - but Sunnyside's own.

The house long since has been re-occupied, has had a series of owners. Have any of these new residents at 330 Congo Street had eerie experiences?

Beauty - Myrtle Sumner was the most beautiful girl any of us ever had seen - including stage and screen. She was the idealized Irish girl with truly laughing eyes of a blue to make Elizabeth Taylor's, Frank Sinatra's, Paul Newman's fade as washed-out jeans. Myrtle's eyes sparkled with laughter at the world and you - but her amusement was affectionate.

She married Aeneas Kane, executive secretary to Mayor Angelo Rossi. When The Folies Bergere was arriving in San Francisco, Aeneas, in his official capacity, went to welcome them. He took Myrtle with him. Photographers and press were swarming everywhere until they spotted Myrtle. She was the most beautiful girl they ever had seen too. Thinking she must be the star performer, they took pictures and barraged her with questions. When she insisted she just was an observer, they were sure she was doing a Garbo.

Glamour - When all the rest of us grubby kids were drudging off to high school, Marie Buschmann was hiding in the attic at 311 Joost Avenue, dodging truant officers. Then she auditioned and was hired for The Fanchon and Marco Dance Company, - ne plus ultra at the time. She met a drummer in the orchestra where she was dancing and he was her "steady boy friend". She was only fifteen and he was no pedophile; so, they didn't marry for quite a while. Marie danced across the country, had a dance act which played The Palace Theatre in New York - the top of Olympus - she danced in movie scenes. Meanwhile, those of us with "higher education" were enabled to moil in insurance files and slaver with envy. When she reached twenty-one, Eddie Forest felt he had given her time to dance and grow up and they were married. She "retired" to travel with her husband, raise their two daughters and later a grandson.

Recently Marie and Eddie celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary. The world's sharpest-eyed feline never would guess Marie's age within thirty years. Her figure today makes Madonna look ropey. Her face and manner are ageless. She did not dance at all these past sixty years, but her ability is so natural that she now is performing again. Top that, Arizona with your "Main Chance"!

Incidentally, this Sunnyside girl met her future husband in the theatre, but he hadn't come far from her home either. Eddie Forest was a Glen Park boy.

Holy Miracles - On Sunnyside Avenue (now Monterey Boulevard), a maiden lady lived alone - in solitude. She had no visitors, went nowhere. In that long ago time, cars were infrequent, streetcars came on a seldom schedule, neighbors could and did know everything everyone did. Scattered housing made for clear visibility, no noise obscured comings and goings, no television distracted, they KNEW their maiden lady had no visitors, never went anywhere.

Well, this solitary lady became conspicuously pregnant. She claimed it was an Immaculate Conception. Sunnyside bought it.

Widower Father - Old John Bridler's wife died and left him with three daughters to raise at 268 Joost Avenue. He was crotchety, neighbor children were somewhat intimidated by him. Not an easy man. Yet he raised three pretty, vivacious popular girls. Consciously or unconsciously - probably unconsciously - he taught them valuable lessons on how to get along well with men.

The three girls, Emmy, Elizabeth, May - all learned how to get whatever they wanted. John Bridler was a difficult subject. After they figured out how to cope with him - and they did, even though he always thought he was in charge - and that was part of it - any and every other man was pie a la mode.

They never heard of Women's Lib; they didn't need it. They had charm.

Opera - Myrtle Williams had a professional quality soprano voice. She also had an outrageous sense of humor. At a formal party, elegantly dressed, she slowly and gracefully descended the wide staircase singing, "I'm Only A Bird In A Gilded Cage" - with a bird cage over her head. Ted Kipping, do you ever hear her echo at 257 Joost Avenue?

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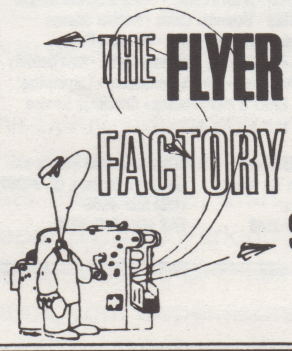
Sunnyside houses are all different styles, vintages, prices. Just as their dwellings have not been cookie-cutter fashioned, residents here have been colorful, individual. Neighbors had and granted each other freedom. There was no banding together to establish rules and enforce conformity. Sunnyside needed no organizations to combat prejudice against anything. A person could stand alone, be different from everyone else and that difference would delight - be cherished.

Let's keep it that way.



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